

October 23, 2003s

October Twenty-third

20-----03

A Special Meeting of City Council was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: Ruby B. Archie, P. A. "Pete" Castiglione, Jr., E. Stokes Daniels, Jr., Mayor John C. Hamlin, T. David Luther, Albert K. "Buddy" Rawley, Jr., Sherman M. Saunders, H. Phillip Smith, and Vice-Mayor R. Wayne Williams, Jr. (9).

Administrative Staff Members present were City Manager Jerry L. Gwaltney, Deputy City Manager M. Lyle Lacy, III, City Attorney Timothy R. Spencer, Assistant City Manager for Utilities Joseph C. King, Legislative and Public Affairs Director Todd M. Yeatts, Finance Director Aubrey D. Dodson, and Clerk of the Council Annette Y. Crane, CMC.

Other Staff Members present were Economic Development Director Ron Bunch, Public Works Director Rick Drazenovich, and Human Services Director Gwendolyn Edwards.

Mayor Hamlin presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Archie introduced Rev. Willie Sherman, Pastor of Camp Grove Baptist Church, who offered the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed.

Mrs. Archie reported that Rev. Sherman had offered the invocation during the dedication ceremony of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Bridge held today, which marked the 40th anniversary to the day of Dr. King's visit to Danville. Governor Mark Warner officiated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Hamlin recognized Chairperson of the Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services Board Ramona Fletcher. Ms. Fletcher advised that due to Virginia's under-performing economy, Fiscal Year 2003 had been one of the most challenging in the 31-year history of the Community Services Board. She reported that during 2002, there were three sizeable reductions in State funding. As a result, there were cutbacks in staff. Ms. Fletcher said the staffing reductions were particularly significant when one stops to consider that most mentally ill, mentally retarded, and those trying to recover from substance abuse are living in our communities and are dependent upon community-based treatment and training being available to support their living outside of an institution. Fortunately, at the end of Fiscal Year 2003, there were no further State funding reductions.

October 23, 2003s

Ms. Fletcher said that in spite of the budget reductions, there were major achievements through the year and expressed pride at what the Board was able to accomplish. She thanked local, state and federal governmental officials for their ongoing support and to advocacy groups that keep the public's eye focused on the needs of those with a mental disability and/or chemical dependency.

Ms. Fletcher acknowledged the presence of Community Service Executive Director Lenard Lackey. Mayor Hamlin asked Mr. Lackey to express his deep appreciation to the staff for all the much-needed services they provide to area citizens.

Mayor Hamlin, Council Members Archie and Castiglione thanked Ms. Fletcher for the excellent report and for the excellent job in spite of insufficient funding. Mr. Castiglione thanked the Board for the invaluable service it provides to Danville Community College students.

Council Member Smith commended the all-volunteer Board of Directors for their willingness to serve without remuneration and often without a word of thanks.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Judith Rose, a resident of Baltimore Avenue, appealed to Council Members to provide funds for markers for poor citizens who are buried in paupers' graves. Ms. Rose said on the average there are five (5) such burials per year. Presently, these graves are marked with numbers and Ms. Rose felt there should be a more appropriate means of marking these gravesites. In response to Mayor Hamlin, Ms. Rose said each marker would cost approximately \$150.00. The price quote was obtained from Edith Emerson at W. D. Rowe Co., located on North Main Street.

Mayor Hamlin suggested that perhaps civic groups and/or citizens of Danville could provide such funds. He asked City Manager Gwaltney to look into this matter during the budget deliberations for Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

MINUTES

Upon Motion by Council Member Archie and second by Council Member Smith, Minutes of the October 7, 2003 Regular Council Meeting and the Special Joint Work Session with the School Board held on October 2, 2003 were approved as presented. Draft copies had been distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING-BUDGET AMENDMENTS-FY 2003-2004

Mayor Hamlin opened the floor for a Public Hearing to consider amendments to the FY 2003-2004 Budget Appropriation Ordinance. Notice of the Public Hearing had been duly published in the Danville Register and Bee on October 16, 2003. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

October 23, 2003s

Mayor Hamlin said the following Budget Amendments had been previously considered by Council Members and would be enacted by one motion. If a citizen or Council Member desires discussion, the item would be removed from the Consent Process and considered separately.

Council Member Luther asked that Item B. 2, under Old Business relating to the Municipal Area Network, be removed from the consent process and considered separately.

BUDGET ADOPTION-FY 2003-04-2002 TEA-21 AWARD

Upon Motion by Vice-Mayor Williams and second by Council Member Rawley, Ordinance No. 2003-10.04 presented by its First Reading on October 7, 2003 amending the 2003-2004 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to provide for a grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation (2002 TEA-21 award) and local share to continue Phase III of the Danville Crossing at the Dan Project was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,
Smith, and Williams (9).
NAY: None (0).

BUDGET ADOPTION-FY 2003-04-WELFARE TO WORK GRANT

Upon Motion by Vice-Mayor Williams and second by Council Member Rawley, Ordinance No. 2003-10.05 presented by its First Reading on October 7, 2003 amending the Budget Appropriation Ordinance by anticipating funds from the Virginia Department of Social Services in the amount of \$175,365 for a Welfare to Work Grant was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,
Smith, and Williams (9).
NAY: None (0).

BUDGET ADOPTION-FY 2003-04-FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS

Upon Motion by Vice-Mayor Williams and second by Council Member Rawley, Ordinance No. 2003-10.06 presented by its First Reading on October 7, 2003 amending the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a federal grant in the amount of \$26,275 to aid the Food Service Operations at W. W. Moore, Jr. Detention Home and appropriating same was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,
Smith, and Williams (9).

October 23, 2003s

NAY: None (0).

Mayor Hamlin announced the end of the Consent Process.

BUDGET ADOPTION-FY 2003-04-MUNICIPAL AREA NETWORK (MAN)

Council Member Luther said he understood the school system would pay \$1 Million towards the network, but the amount was not included in the proposed Ordinance. City Manager Gwaltney said the money would have to come from the Electric Fund, but the school system would be paying \$50,000 annually until the \$1 Million is paid.

Upon Motion by Council Member Luther and second by Council Member Smith, Ordinance No. 2003-10.01 presented by its First Reading on October 7, 2003 amending the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to allocate funds in the amount of \$2,500,000 from the Electric Fund Balance to design, construct, and equip a Fiber-Optic Municipal Area Network (MAN) was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0

AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (9).

NAY: None (0).

APPOINT BETTY DALTON BROWN TO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Vice-Mayor Williams moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-10.07

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BETTY DALTON BROWN AS A MEMBER OF THE DANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

Council Member Rawley seconded the Motion.

Council Member Archie said she could not support the appointment, stating she had obtained information that as a member of another organization, the proposed appointee had not been fully committed.

The Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 7-2

AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders, and Williams (7).

NAY: Archie, and Smith (2).

BUDGET AMENDMENT-FY 2003-04-LITTER CONTROL GRANT

October 23, 2003s

Upon Motion by Council Member Archie and second by Council Member Rawley, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2003-10.07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2003-2004 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FOR LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING EFFORTS

was presented by its First Reading, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

SUSPEND RULES-SUBSTITUTE ITEM ON AGENDA

Council Member Smith moved to suspend the rules and substitute an Ordinance approving a Deed of Dedication conveying land to the City for right-of-way on Riverside Drive near Main Street for the Resolution approving a subdivision plat under the Subdivision Ordinance of the City of Danville, Virginia. The Motion was seconded by Council Member Daniels and carried unanimously.

Council Member Daniels said the property in question was not a subdivision as stated in the Resolution that had been placed on the Agenda, but merely a right-of-way for turning lanes to accommodate the traffic that would be entering the Long Mill Development site. The owners of the Long Mill property, MCD Investments, LLC, had agreed to donate the land required for the right-of-way. Mr. Daniels felt that a deed of dedication conveying land to the City would be more in line with what the property owners were requesting.

APPROVE DEED OF DEDICATION-LONG MILL PROPERTY

Council Member Daniels moved the adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2003-10.08

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A DEED OF DEDICATION CONVEYING LAND TO THE CITY FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEAR MAIN STREET.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Castiglione and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,
Smith, and Williams (9).
NAY: None (0).

October 23, 2003s

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Archie advised that last Thursday most Council Members toured the Almegro and Richmond Avenue areas. Rev. Cecil Bridgeforth had requested during an earlier Council Meeting that Council Members do so. Mrs. Archie said there were serious problems in the areas that needed to be addressed and stressed that the problems should not be forgotten.

Mrs. Archie said the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Bridge, which took place this afternoon, was a most impressive one. She was honored to be a part of the ceremony.

At the request of former Council Member Joyce Glaise, Mrs. Archie reminded Council Members that on Tuesday, October 28, 2003, the Annual Appreciation Dinner would take place at Camp Grove Baptist Church located on Bradley Road. She said the dinner is an annual function to highlight accomplishments and show appreciation to city officials for helping residents improve the Camp Grove community.

Council Member Castiglione expressed his excitement that Virginia Tech is moving their Polymer DuPont Research facility from the Tech campus to the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. Mr. Castiglione said this was an amazing opportunity for Danville.

Mr. Castiglione advised that during ceremonies today at the Institute, Governor Mark Warner said there were no other communities in the Commonwealth of Virginia working together as is Danville and Pittsylvania County. Mr. Castiglione felt this said a lot about our region.

Council Member Daniels said it was a great day in Danville and everyone should be proud of the remarks made by Governor Warner.

Mr. Daniels advised that he had attended the Open House held at W. W. Moore, Jr. Detention Home recently. Mr. Daniels was impressed by the excitement of the faculty who really enjoyed what they were doing. He said a great deal of work is going on to help the clients of the facility.

Mrs. Archie said the students at W. W. Moore have regular classroom instruction and are learning like students at the public schools. Mr. Castiglione said college classes are also being offered to the students.

October 23, 2003s

Mayor Hamlin said it was a great day in Danville. Governor Warner started his day in the region at the Virginia International Raceway in South Boston before coming to the Institute. Mr. Hamlin said it was amazing to be in the company of those who had worked so tirelessly in bringing the Institute to fruition. He especially cited former Mayor Linwood Wright, Charles Major of American National Bank, Ben Davenport of Chatham, and State Senator Charles Hawkins for the energy they had put into getting funding for the facility. The efforts began in the Year 2000.

Mayor Hamlin had participated in the dedication of the MLK, Jr. Memorial Bridge today. Governor Warner had noted in his remarks that it was very fitting for Dr. King to be remembered with the naming of a bridge in his honor, since Dr. King had worked so tirelessly to build bridges among all people.

Council Member Luther, in remembering the remarks of Senator Charles Hawkins today at the Institute, said one of the biggest exports in this part of the country are graduates of our high schools. Our young people are exported from the area to attend college and do not return because they feel there is nothing to come back to. Senator Hawkins said that because of the Institute, the area had exported its last generation of graduates.

Mr. Luther advised that this week had been Headstart Awareness Week. He said that on Monday, he took part in the kickoff ceremonies to make everyone aware of the 37 years of Headstart. Mr. Luther said he felt that the younger children could start learning, the more value they would place on learning and would have role models all along the way. Mr. Luther felt this was one secret to having a better educated work force. He commended Headstart faculty for the great job they are doing in educating children.

Council Member Rawley advised that on Friday and Saturday of last week, he was a patient at Danville Regional Medical Center (DRMC). He commended the personnel at DRMC for the excellent care and quality customer service he received.

Council Member Saunders said the events of today were a great example of what could happen when a region works together. Mr. Saunders said he felt that regional cooperation was of utmost importance in getting things done. He said jails were overcrowded, noting that Pittsylvania County is presently experiencing these problems. Mr. Saunders said that taking issue with the overcrowding problem was another way to experience regional cooperation.

Council Member Smith commented on the Adelphia Cablevision Franchise Agreement. A draft of the proposed Agreement had been placed in Council Members' Agenda packets for their review. Mr. Smith advised that he was present this week for a State General Assembly Legislative Committee meeting. He said the City administration and Council needed to use caution while considering the proposed agreement. Mr. Smith advised that there might be changes at the State level that may impact the City's ability to impose franchise fees.

October 23, 2003s

Mr. Smith said he was proud of City Council and City Staff. He said today's events shows that with good leadership, cooperation, and stewardship the region could move forward and do what needs to be done.

Vice-Mayor Williams said the main ingredient in today's events was the cooperation between the City and Pittsylvania County. He said the two governing bodies working together helped to create the Institute. Dr. Williams expressed his enthusiasm about the future of Danville and its neighboring region.

CLOSED MEETING

At 7:45 P.M. Mayor Hamlin recognized Vice-Mayor Williams who moved that the meeting be recessed and that Council immediately convene in Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussion, consideration or interview of prospective candidates for appointment as permitted by Subsection (A) (5) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and more specifically to consider an update on prospective industries that may locate to Danville where no prior announcement has been made. The Motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders, Smith,
and Williams (9).
NAY: None (0).

At 8:49 P.M. Council reconvened in open session and Vice-Mayor Williams moved that Council adopt the following Resolution.

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Council convened in Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a Certification by the Council that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each Member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted by the open requirements of Virginia Law were discussed in the Closed Meeting to which this Certification Resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion convening the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Castiglione and adopted by the following vote:

October 23, 2003s

VOTE: 9-0

AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders, Smith,
and Williams (9).

NAY: None (0).

The Meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

MAYOR

CLERK